selected dialed digit will appear in input field **320**. The selected dialed digit may also appear at another predetermined region **420** on the display **214**. The user repeats this dialing process with each desired digit. Once all digits have been dialed the device **210** will dial the telephone number represented by the selected digits.

[0045] Of course, the digits displayed in configuration **410**A could be rearranged or dialing could be performed in a clockwise manner, as is illustrated in FIG. **4**B. The virtual rotary dial pad configuration **410**B in FIG. **4**B illustrates how the digits may be reversed and dialing may also be reversed. FIG. **4**B also illustrates the use of a circle **412**B comprising finger holes **414** as described above. Other variations may be made as well.

[0046] FIG. **5** illustrates an additional virtual dial pad configuration **510**. In configuration **510**, dialing is effectuated by using a stylus **520** or a finger to "write" the digits to be dialed. Stylus **520** may be used with a resistive touch screen, and a finger with a capacitive touch screen. The touch screen display **214** on the device **210** includes a large writing area **515** in which a user may touch the display **214** and write a digit. In FIG. **5**, the user is in the process of writing a "2" with the stylus **520**. The dialing pad module **895** includes software that allows the device **210** to recognize letters written by a user. Optionally, dialing pad module **895** can learn how the user "writes" a particular digit. Once the device **210** recognizes the digit (for example, the **2** in FIG. **5**) being drawn by the user, the determined digit is displayed in input field **320** on the display **214**. Optionally, the recognized digit can be displayed in predetermined area **525**. Incorrectly recognized digits can be deleted from input field **320** with delete key **316**. In an alternative embodiment, the user can be given an opportunity to confirm that the device **210** has correctly displayed the written digit by waiting for the user to press the displayed digit before moving on to the next desired digit to be written. If the device displays a wrong digit, meaning that the device **210** failed to properly interpret the writing of the user, the user can simply rewrite the digit. Once all digits have been dialed the user can dial the telephone number represented by the selected digits by pressing the physical send button **218** of FIG. **1**. Dialing pad module **895** is also adapted to recognize natural language digits, as well as so-called "unistroke" alphanumeric symbols (such as that described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,596,656).

[0047] The device **210** may also be programmable to associate different symbols drawn on the display **214** with various digits. As an example, the device **210** may interpret a vertical line made in a downward motion as a "1," and a vertical line made in an upward motion as a "2." Other symbols could represent digits 3-0.

[0048] Yet another virtual dial pad configuration **610** is illustrated in FIG. **6**. In configuration **610**, the user holds the portable electronic device **210** and waves the device in the air as if the user were using the device to write the digits of the telephone number. To "write" a first digit of the number, the user presses a key (either a virtual key on the touch screen display **214** or a customizable physical button **222**) on the device **210** to indicate to the device **210** that it should begin recording the physical movement of the device **210**. The user continues to press the key until the user has completed "writing" the digit. Physical movement is recorded using the accelerometer **890**. In FIG. **6**, the user is waving the device **210** so as to write a "2" in the air. The user indicates that he or she has completed writing a digit by releasing the pushed key. The device **210** then displays on the touch screen display **214** the drawn number, as the device **210** interpreted it. In this way, the user can confirm that the device **210** correctly understood the user's actions and, if it did not, the user is able to redraw any incorrect digits. The configuration **610** clearly requires that the dial pad module **895** be in communication with the accelerometer **890**. Also, although a touch screen display **214** has been used in the device **210** to aid in the description of configuration **610**, a touch screen display is not necessary for the configuration **610** to function properly.

[0049] The device **210** may also be programmable to associate different symbols drawn in the air with various digits. As an example, the device **210** may interpret a vertical line made in a downward motion as a "1," and a vertical line made in an upward motion as a "2." Other symbols could represent digits 3-0. Alternatively, shaking the device **210** a single time could represent a "1;" shaking the device **210** twice could represent a "2;" and so forth.

[0050] Configurations **310**, **410**, **510**, and **610** are each embedded in the dial pad module **895**. Additional configurations are possible and may be added by third party applications or APIs.

[0051] Although the embodiments and applications as described above relate to a portable electronic device with data and voice communication capacity, it should be understood that they may also be embodied in and applied with any portable electronic device with an ability to dial telephone numbers.

[0052] Specific embodiments and applications related to the above description include, but are not limited to, a portable electronic device that includes a display, a communication system, and a first dial pad configuration selected from more than one dial pad configuration stored in a memory of the portable electronic device. The first dial pad configuration enables a user of the portable electronic device to dial and call a telephone number using the display and the communication system. The display can be a capacitive touch screen display, and the first dial pad configurations can include a rotary dial configuration and a writing zone configuration. The portable electronic device may also include an accelerometer, in which case the first dial pad configuration may also include a configuration that requires a user to wave the portable electronic device in the air as if to write a digit.

[0053] An additional embodiment includes a method of dialing a telephone number using a portable electronic device. The method includes selecting a first dial pad configuration for dialing telephone numbers using the portable electronic device. The first dial pad configuration is selected from more than one configuration embedded in a memory of the portable electronic device. In the case where the first dial pad configuration is a rotary dial pad configuration, a touch screen display is used. A touch screen display can also be used in the case where the first dial pad configuration is a writing zone and wherein a finger or a stylus is used to write the desired digits on the touch screen display. The display is optionally a capacitive touch screen display. An accelerometer is used when the first dial pad configuration requires the user of the portable electronic device to wave the device in the air as if to write the desired digits.

[0054] A system for using hardware of a portable electronic device to dial a telephone number is also described. The system includes a portable electronic device that includes a touch screen display, a processor, a memory and an accelerometer. The display is optionally a capacitive touch screen